(a) whether Government are aware that insurgents with strong criminal links are being given special and favourable treatment on the Bangladeshi soil for carrying out anti-Indian propaganda;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/contemplated with regard thereto so that Bangladesh does not become a hub for anti-Indian activities for insurgency and militancy in North-Eastern Region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) to (c) Reports appear from time to time of activities of Indian insurgent groups inside Bangladesh. This matter has been taken up with the Government of Bangladesh at both official and political levels and specific information in this regard has also been conveyed to them. The Government of Bangladesh has been reiterating its commitment not to allow its territory to be used for activities prejudicial to the interest of India.

Release of Indian prisoners by Pakistan

290. SHRI SK. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian prisoners released by the Pakistani authorities; and;

(b) the number of Indian prisoners still in Pakistani Jails and vice-versa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Pakistan, till date, has released 623 Indian fishermen and 38 civilian prisoners during the year 2003.

(b) As per available information, Pakistan has 28 Indian fishermen and 882 Indian civilian prisoners under its custody, and there are 77 Pakistani fishermen under detention in India.